

minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ON THE AIR DURING HURRICANES

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my congressional district in southeast Texas is right in Hurricane Alley. When Katrina, Rita, Humberto, Gustav, and Ike struck with all their fury, people were left in the dark with no Internet or cell service, but local TV and radio reporters were still on the air telling folks what they needed to know.

Hurricane Rita was the fourth most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded and the most intense hurricane ever observed in the Gulf of Mexico. The storm was devastating to our communities, but many folks were able to stay safe because they were tuned in to the news. Our broadcasters provide communities with vital lifesaving information before and after storms. They are the most reliable resource we have when disaster strikes.

Today, on the first day of hurricane season, we should thank all of our local first responders, police, and firefighters. But we should also thank all the broadcasters who do their part to keep us safe in southeast Texas when the storms come crashing ashore.

And that's just the way it is.

PERPETUAL WAR FOR PERPETUAL PEACE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Gore Vidal called it "Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace."

The administration's unrestricted use of drones has taken us into undeclared wars in Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, and who knows where else, destroying not only alleged militants, but making a direct hit on international law and the U.S. Constitution.

Drone strikes are killing militants now identified as males of fighting age. What are the rules? Trust us. What are the legal justifications? Trust us. Haven't 350 civilians been killed, innocents? Trust us, we're told.

No transparency, no accountability—until now, no Congress.

The Constitution requires Congress to weigh in and demand information and legal justification for drone strikes. That's in my letter to the administration. Drone strikes, absent a constitutional basis, sanctions the wholesale slaughter of innocents. One nation's drones over another nation's airspace is an act of war. With 50 nations exploring the development of drones—a \$100 billion business—we cannot permit this Nation to further incite perpetual war for perpetual peace.

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THANKING RADIO BROADCASTERS

(Mr. YOUNG of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the important work of our broadcast radio stations in emergency situations.

Back in March, a violent tornado ripped through a 49-mile stretch of my southern Indiana district. It leveled entire towns, did millions of dollars in damage, and took numerous lives. The death toll probably would have been higher were it not for the early warnings to seek shelter so many received by radio. In the aftermath of the storm, with no power or TV or Internet and virtually no cell service, radio instructed Hoosiers where to find first aid, food, and shelter.

So I'd like to thank our broadcasters today for the valuable service they provide. In the midst of chaotic situations, it is our Nation's radio broadcasters who provide needed direction.

PROTECT MEDICARE

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, after a lifetime of service to our Nation, America's seniors deserve a secure retirement, a strong Medicare and Social Security safety net. Sadly, The House Republicans are choosing to give tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires over paying for Medicare.

The GOP budget will give those already making over \$1 million a year an average tax cut of \$394,000. All told, the Republican budget gives away \$3 trillion in tax breaks to big oil companies that ship jobs overseas and the ultra-rich, and it does not reduce the deficit. That is wrong.

We should be giving tax breaks to hardworking middle class families, small businesses, and not the wealthiest few. We must end the Bush tax cuts for the rich. No new taxes, no new jobs. No new taxes, no new jobs. Let's work together on a bipartisan budget plan that protects Medicare and makes all Americans pay their fair share.

KEEPING SOUTH CAROLINA SAFE DURING HURRICANE SEASON

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the official first day of hurricane season. Each year, South Carolinians remain alert from June through the summer, hoping another Hurricane Gracie, Hugo or Andrew does not reach our beaches, bringing massive destruction.

During times of emergency, radio and television stations have proven themselves as the most reliable source by

being the first to promote important life-saving and time-sensitive information. When disaster strikes, these broadcast networks are still available.

I am grateful for each of these services and look forward to working with our National Guard led by Adjutant General Bob Livingston and Emergency Management Director George McKinney, II.

In addition, I would like to welcome the group of foster young adults who are visiting today, including Jasmine Thompson of Washington. I appreciate each of you sharing your challenges with us, and we look forward to hearing of your success in the future.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the women who are part of the fabric of our Nation's workforce.

Nationally, women working full time are paid 77 cents for every dollar paid to men. These disparities are even worse for women of color. In Ohio, my home State, African American women are paid only 62 cents, and Hispanic American women only 54 cents for every dollar paid to white males.

The gender wage gap not only hurts women; unfair wages hurt entire families. In nearly two out of three American families, a woman is either the bread winner or co-bread winner of their household. That means if women are not paid fairly, many families will not get fed.

I cosponsored the Paycheck Fairness Act because I cannot and will not stand by as pay disparities persist. Gender discrimination is shameless and intolerable, and it must be stopped.

SEVERE WEATHER WARNINGS

(Mr. LONG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, when a weather emergency strikes, local radio and television stations play an instrumental role in keeping families informed on vital warnings and emergency response efforts.

A little over 1 year ago, the city of Joplin, Missouri, was changed forever when an EF-5 tornado struck. Local radio stations like KZRG, the Zimmer Radio Group, Community Radio Group, and KDMO provided Joplin residents with critical information as it was happening. After the tornado, they helped families locate their loved ones and provided information on where they could seek shelter and food.

Local stations are a tremendous asset to their communities, especially during weather emergencies. These stations keep their communities informed